(e) The project has been accorded clearance from foreign investment angle by the Government of India.

(f) This does not arise.

Passport Offices

53. DR. G.R. SARODE :
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport Offices with their locations in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more passport offices in various States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There are 28 Passport Offices in the country as on date. A statement showing their locations is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal at present to open more Passport Offices. A proposal for automation of the Passport Offices at a cost of Rs. 28 crores has been approved by the Committee on Non-Plan expenditure. Addition of any new office would alter the parameters of the proposal and delay the tendering process.

STATEMENT

The location of Passport Offices in the Country

1. Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad.
2. Passport Office, Bangalore.
3. Passport Office, Bareilly
4. Passport Office, Bhopal.
5. Regional Passport Office, Bhubneshwar.
6. Regional Passport Office, Mumbai.
7. Regional Passport Office, Calcutta.
8. Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh.
9. Regional Passport Office, Chennai.
10. Regional Passport Office, Cochin.
11. Regional Passport Office, Delhi.
12. Regional Passport Office, Guwahati.
13. Passport Office, Hyderabad.
14. Passport Office, Jaipur.
15. Passport Office, Jallandhar.
16. Passport Office, Kozhikode.
17. Passport Office, Lucknow.
18. Passport Office, Nagpur.
19. Passport Office, Panaji.
20. Passport Office, Patna.
21. Passport Office, Tiruchirapalli.
22. Passport Office, Trivandrum.
23. Passport Office, Jammu.
24. Passport Office, Ghaziabad.
25. Passport Office, Vishakhapatnam.
26. Passport Office, Thane.
27. Passport Office, Srinagar.
28. Passport Office, Pune, (Being set up).

Purchase of Blood

54. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports regarding buying of contaminated blood sets by the city's Safdarjung Hispital's Blood Bank appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 19, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the buying of blood which is unfit for use; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the finding thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The hospitals does not buy blood as only donors are accepted. Regarding the news item of contaminated blood sets, the matter was investigated by

the hospital authorities. It was found that these blood sets are not being used presently for blood collecting purposes due to better technology now available. These reported sets were used in the hospital for purposes other than blood transfusion.

Per Capita Income

55. CHOUDHARY RAMACHANDRA BENDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural-urban per capita Income ratio before the implementation of First Five Year Plan and at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the proportional rural income has come down during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the impact thereof on poor persons, specially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) The estimates of income by rural and urban areas are not available on a regular basis. According to the Central Statistical organisation (CSO) estimates, at currently prices, the ratio of per capita net Domestic Product in urban areas and rural areas were 2.45 in 1970-71 and 2.23 in 1980-81. However, the information on per capita consumption expenditure in rural and urban areas is available on a fairly regular basis from the data generated by the Survey on Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). According to this, the ratio of per capita consumption in urban and rural areas in 1955-56 was 1.43. The latest estimates are available for the year 1993-94, according to which the ratio of per capita consumption in urban to rural areas is worked out as 1.63.

(c) The estimates of poverty depends mainly on the per capita real consumption and its distribution among different expenditure groups of the population. The Planning Commission estimates poverty on the basis of quinquennial Survey on Consumer Expenditure conducted by NSSO. Comparable estimates show a decline in the incidence of poverty from 56.44 per cent in 1973-74 to 37.27 per cent in 1993-94 in rural areas, 49.01 per cent to 32.36 per cent in urban areas and 54 .88 to 35.97 per cent for the country as a whole, during the corresponding period.

Arrest of Indian Fishermen

56. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Fishermen were arrested by Iranian Government from Saudi Arabian Ship while they crossed the Exclusive Economic Zone of Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Comprehensive Power Policy

57. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the Planning Commission for a Comprehensive Power Policy has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (c) Planning Commission has not constituted such a committee for evolving a comprehensive power policy. However, National Development Council (NDC) constituted a Committee on Power which has submitted its report to the Prime Minister. Since the Committee was constituted by NDC, the Report is to be first placed before them.

Disposal of Medical Waste

58. SHRI RAMBHADUR SINGH :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of the directives issued by the Supreme Court certain rules for the safe disposal of medical waste in the hospital were notified by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of directives issued by the Supreme Court;

(c) whether the Government have made any study to know how far these rules are being implemented by the hospitals for the disposal of medical waste;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and